

**District of Columbia Public Schools**  
**2009 Summer Reading List for Rising 4th Grade Students**

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>
<b>Burnford, Sheila</b>	<b>The Incredible Journey</b>	A Siamese cat, an old bull terrier, and a young Labrador retriever travel together 250 miles through the Canadian wilderness to find their family.
<b>Chambers, Veronica</b>	<b>Celia Cruz, Queen of Salsa</b>	A colorful children's story of Cuban salsa singer Celia Cruz, and tells of her childhood and rise to fame.
<b>Clements, Andrew</b>	<b>Frindle</b>	When he decides to turn his fifth-grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.
<b>Codell, Esme Raji</b>	<b>Sahara Special</b>	Sahara gets a fresh start with a new and unique teacher who supports her writing talents and the individuality of each of her classmates.
<b>Coerr, Eleanor</b>	<b>Sadako</b>	Hospitalized with the dreaded atom bomb disease, leukemia, a child in Hiroshima races against time to fold one thousand paper cranes to verify the legend that by doing so a sick person will become healthy.
<b>Dahl, Roald</b>	<b>James and the Giant Peach</b>	A young boy escapes from two wicked aunts and embarks on a series of adventures with six giant insects he meets inside a giant peach.
<b>Daley, Michael J.</b>	<b>Space Station Rat</b>	A lavender rat that has escaped from a laboratory, and a lonely boy whose parents are scientists, meet on an orbiting space station, communicate by email, and ultimately find themselves in need of each other's help and friendship.
<b>Danizger, Paula</b>	<b>Amber Brown Goes Fourth</b>	Amber faces some changes in her life as her best friend moves away and her parents divorce.
<b>Delano, Marfe</b>	<b>Helen's Eyes</b>	The life of Helen Keller's tutor, Annie Sullivan.
<b>Di Camillo, Kate</b>	<b>Because of Winn-Dixie</b>	Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie.
<b>Fleischman, Sid</b>	<b>The Whipping Boy</b>	A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws.
<b>Frisch, Aaron</b>	<b>The Story of the Washington Wizards</b>	The history of the Washington Wizards basketball team, highlighting important games, players, and coaches and presenting color photos.
<b>Goodall, Jane</b>	<b>The Chimpanzees I Love</b>	Dr. Jane Goodall provides an account of her life studying chimpanzees at the Gombe National Park in Tanzania, and shares what she has learned from her observations. Includes photographs and discussion of ways to protect the chimpanzees and their habitats.

**District of Columbia Public Schools**  
**2009 Summer Reading List for Rising 4th Grade Students**

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>
<b>Grimes, Nikki</b>	<b>Barack Obama: Son of Promise, Child of Hope</b>	Full-color illustrations and easy-to-follow text presents a narrative description of the life of President Barack Obama, beginning with his childhood in Hawaii, his family, his education, and professional achievements.
<b>Henry, Marguerite</b>	<b>Misty of Chincoteague</b>	Two youngsters' determination to own a Chincoteague pony is greatly increased when the Phantom and her colt are among those rounded up for the yearly auction.
<b>Holling, Holling C.</b>	<b>Paddle-to-the-Sea</b>	A toy Indian in a toy canoe takes a journey of several hundred miles through the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence River, and Niagara Falls before it reaches the Atlantic Ocean.
<b>Howe, Deborah</b>	<b>Bunnicula</b>	Though scoffed at by Harold the dog, Chester the cat tries to warn his human family that their foundling baby bunny must be a vampire.
<b>Hurwitz, Johanna, ed.</b>	<b>Birthday Surprises: Ten Great Stories to Unwrap</b>	Ten stories about birthdays, each revolving around a mysterious empty gift box.
<b>King, Martin Luther</b>	<b>I Have a Dream</b>	Text of the speech given by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on August 28, 1963 describing his visionary dream of equality and brotherhood for humankind. Also includes illustrations by award winning artists depicting scenes described in the speech.
<b>King-Smith, Dick</b>	<b>Pigs Might Fly</b>	A duck and an otter coach a runt piglet with deformed front feet to swim, he becomes a hero when their farm is flooded.
<b>Lawson, Robert</b>	<b>Ben and Me</b>	Benjamin Franklin's companion, Amos the mouse, recounts how he was responsible for Franklin's inventions and discoveries.
<b>Leach, Deborah J.</b>	<b>Grant Wood: The Artist in the Hayloft</b>	Several of twentieth-century American artist Grant Wood's paintings are presented, including "American Gothic," and describes the influence of his childhood, family, and small-town life on his work.
<b>Lester, Julius</b>	<b>Tales of Uncle Remus</b>	A retelling of the African-American tales about the adventures and misadventures of Brer Rabbit and his friends and enemies.
<b>Lewis, C. S.</b>	<b>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</b>	Four English school children find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch who has cursed the land with eternal winter.
<b>Lewis, J. Patrick</b>	<b>Arithme-tickle</b>	Rhyming text and illustrations present a variety of math problems.
<b>Martin, Bill Jr., ed.</b>	<b>The Bill Martin Jr. Book of Poetry</b>	An illustrated collection of poems for children, featuring the writings of a wide variety of poets, selected as favorites by Bill Martin, Jr.
<b>McKissack, Patricia</b>	<b>Away West</b>	In 1879, thirteen-year-old Everett Turner leaves a life of struggle on his family's farm and runs away to St. Louis, where he works in a livery stable before heading to the all-Black town of Nicodemus, Kansas.

**District of Columbia Public Schools**  
**2009 Summer Reading List for Rising 4th Grade Students**

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>
<b>Montes, Marisa</b>	<b>A Crazy Mixed-up Spanglish Day</b>	In Northern California, Maritza Gabriela Morales Mercado struggles to deal with the third grade bully, to control her temper, and to remember to speak Spanish at home and English at school.
<b>Naylor, Phyllis</b>	<b>Starting with Alice</b>	After she, her older brother, and their father move from Chicago to Maryland, Alice has trouble fitting into her new third grade class, but with the help of some new friends and her own unique outlook, she survives.
<b>Neumann, Dietrich</b>	<b>Joe and the Skyscraper</b>	A description of how the Empire State Building was built.
<b>Norton, Mary</b>	<b>The Borrowers</b>	Miniature people who live in an old country house by borrowing things from the humans are forced to emigrate from their home under the clock.
<b>Orr, Wendy</b>	<b>Nim's Island</b>	Nim loves her island home and the animals she shares it with even while her scientist father is away doing research, but trouble is on the way and a new E-mail friend could be the only one who can help.
<b>Sachar, Louis</b>	<b>Sideway Stories from Wayside School</b>	First Harper Trophy edition: 1985.;Revised Harper Trophy edition: 2003. Presents humorous episodes from the classroom on the thirtieth floor of Wayside School, which was accidentally built sideways with one classroom on each story.
<b>Say, Allen</b>	<b>Grandfather's Journey</b>	A Japanese American man recounts his grandfather's journey to America, which he later also undertakes, and the feelings of being torn by a love for two different countries.
<b>Schanzer, Rosalyn</b>	<b>How We Crossed the West</b>	A colored map of the route of Lewis & Clark westward from the Mississippi to the Pacific Ocean from May 1804 to November 1805 on endpapers. Uses quotes from the travelers' own journals to tell the story of the 1804 expedition undertaken by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to search for a river route to the Pacific Ocean.
<b>Scieszka, Jon</b>	<b>Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Mostly True Stories of Growing up Scieszka</b>	How did Jon Scieszka get so funny? He grew up on of six brothers with catholic school, lots fo comic books, lazy summers at the lake with time to kill, babysitting misadventures, tv shows and jokes told at family dinner.
<b>Scieszka, Jon</b>	<b>Summer Reading Is Killing Me</b>	At the beginning of summer vacation Joe, Sam, and Fred find themselves trapped inside their summer reading list, involved in a battle between good and evil characters from well-known children's books.
<b>Seeger, Pete</b>	<b>Abiyoyo</b>	Banished from the town for making mischief, a little boy and his father are welcomed back when they find a way to make the dreaded giant Abiyoyo disappear.
<b>Sis, Peter</b>	<b>Starry Messenger</b>	The life and work of Galileo, the man who changed the way people saw the galaxy by offering objective evidence that the earth was not the fixed center of the universe.

**District of Columbia Public Schools**  
**2009 Summer Reading List for Rising 4th Grade Students**

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>
<b>St. George, Judith</b>	<b>So You Want to Be President</b>	Presents an assortment of facts about the qualifications and characteristics of U.S. presidents, from George Washington to George W. Bush.
<b>Stewart, Mark</b>	<b>Swish: The Quest for Basketball's Perfect Shot</b>	Photographs and text describe noteworthy shots from throughout basketball's history, and includes brief profiles of top-scoring players, such as Michael Jordan, Charlotte Smith, and others
<b>Stolz, Mary</b>	<b>Go Fish</b>	After spending the day fishing in the Gulf of Mexico with Grandfather, eight-year-old Thomas has a quiet evening on the porch hearing more about his African heritage.
<b>Sturm, James</b>	<b>Adventures in Cartooning</b>	Uses a story about a magical elf who helps a princess learn how to draw a comic to present techniques for and advice about drawing comics.
<b>Weatherford, Carole</b>	<b>Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-ins</b>	The 1960 civil rights sit-ins at the Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, are seen through the eyes of a young Southern black girl.
<b>White, E. B.</b>	<b>Charlotte's Web</b>	Wilbur, the pig, is desolate when he discovers that he is destined to be the farmer's Christmas dinner until his spider friend, Charlotte, decides to help him.
<b>Williams, Vera</b>	<b>Scooter</b>	A child's silver blue scooter helps her to adjust to her new home.
<b>Winter, Jeannette</b>	<b>The Tale of Pale Male</b>	Two red-tailed hawks, Pale Male and Lola, make their home atop an apartment building in New York City and spark a protest by those who loved them when the apartment board have their eight-foot-wide nest cleared away.